

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1 1. A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses
2 the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:
3 receiving a request for information from an Internet user through the proxy server;
4 determining that the request for information is through the proxy server;
5 redirecting the request for information to an internal server of the private network, the
6 internal server determining the geographic location of the Internet user;
7 receiving the geographic location from the internal server within the private network;
8 and
9 using the geographic location of the Internet user in handling the request for
10 information from the Internet user.

1 2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein redirecting the request for
2 information to the internal server comprises sending the request for information to the
3 Internet user's machine, the Internet user's machine directing the request for information to
4 the internal server.

1 3. A method for determining a geographic location of an Internet user that
2 accesses the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

receiving a request for the geographic location of the Internet user within the private network, the request originating from an external network outside of the private network; detecting that the request for the geographic location of the Internet user was redirected from the external network; determining the geographic location of the Internet user; and sending the geographic location to the external network.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein receiving the request for the geographic location originating from the external network comprises receiving the request from the Internet user's machine.

5. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein determining the geographic location comprises determining the geographic location based on the Internet user's internal address and a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the private network.

6. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein determining the geographic location comprises:
determining an internal address of the Internet user; and
accessing a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the private network.

1 7. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein sending the geographic location to
2 the external network comprises:

3 sending the geographic location to the Internet user's machine; and
4 redirecting the Internet user's machine to the external network.

1 8. A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses
2 the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

3 receiving a request for the geographic location of the Internet user from a requestor
4 outside of the private network;

5 determining that the request for the geographic location is from the Internet user
6 located inside the private network having the proxy server;

7 redirecting the request for the geographic location to an internal server in the private
8 network, the internal server determining the geographic location of the Internet user;

9 receiving the geographic location from the internal server within the private network;
10 and

11 sending the geographic location to the requestor who is outside the private network.

1 9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein redirecting the request for
2 information to the internal server comprises sending the request for information to the
3 Internet user's machine, the Internet user's machine directing the request for information to
4 the internal server

1 10. A method for resolving a domain name inquiry to assist in gathering
2 geographic location of an Internet user, comprising:
3 receiving the domain name inquiry, the domain name inquiry being issued by the
4 Internet user;
5 determining if the inquiry originated from within a private network;
6 resolving the inquiry by returning a first IP address if the inquiry did not originate
7 from within the private network, the first IP address being associated with an external server
8 located outside of the private network; and
9 resolving the inquiry by returning a second IP address if the inquiry did originate from
10 within the private network, the second IP address being associated with an internal server
11 located inside the private network;
12 wherein the internal server and the external server are for determining the geographic
13 location of the Internet user and for making this geographic location information available.

1 11. The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving the inquiry on the
2 domain name comprises receiving the inquiry at a domain name server.

1 12. The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the resolving by returning the
2 first IP address and the resolving by returning the second IP address are performed by a
3 domain name server.